

Market Notes

Quality sells. Although sample slabs are a tiny niche within numismatics, in some ways they mirror the rest of the coin market. I can sell rare, expensive slabs more easily than I can sell common, inexpensive slabs. For example, of the 21 holders offered in Sample Slab Update #29, four sold in the first 24 hours. Those four represented 70% of the total value listed. This is like the broader numismatic market, in which generic coins languish while rarities and super grades sell quickly for strong prices.

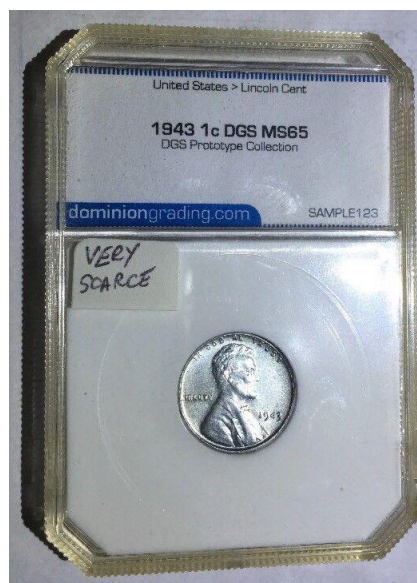
The January FUN convention always yields new samples. The holders given to participants in the NGC grading contest were noteworthy. Does anyone know if the winners received slabs? NGC also provided special holders for an opening reception and for the Coin Dealers Helping Coin Dealers meeting.



A batch of nine PCGS Gold Shield Grading samples sold on January 9 with all different world notes. Since the first PCGS Gold Shield sample appeared May 2017, 16 holders sold of 14 different types. It is not clear whether few samples have made their way to the United States (the service operates in Asia and Europe) or whether some of the samples are unique.

Intense interest on eBay in the fresh PCGS luncheon slab from FUN. These have 1974-D or 1976 Type 2 dollars and labels with moon crater backgrounds.

The PCGS sample with a Georgia quarter and grade NG00 (PCGS-025-4-8) seems like it should be more than the modest \$10 that two examples recently earned. This is the only sample in the eBay sales data with the NG grade. Thirteen appearances in the last five years. Sampleslabs.com pictures a similar sample with grade NG00 and a South Carolina quarter (PCGS-025-4-12), but I have not seen one in person or on eBay yet.



A prototype Dominion Grading Service (DGS) sample earned \$187.50. DGS is one of several scarce but usually inexpensive issuers.

Many samples similar to the FASTCOIN samples and by the same seller, but without the FASTCOIN labeling, sold recently. Most were 1927 quarters and 1963 half dollars.





Showing how collectors value varieties in common and popular pieces, consider the familiar green-label PCGS dime. One with the denomination as “10c” instead of the usual “10C” earned \$75 and an example with the “SAMPLE” legend at right instead of at left sold for \$182.51.

For a short time in the blue label period, PCGS issued samples graded MS00. Except for the state quarters, all are scarce. On January 7, a previously unknown MS00 sample with a 1961-D nickel appeared on eBay and sold for \$255.01.

The book gave speculative prices for Compugrade samples.

Now, enough have now sold on eBay to confirm those early guesses. Not counting undervalued slabs that sold quickly for under \$100, five Compugrades have sold, averaging \$257. The sales were in a narrow range with a low of \$229.50 and a high of \$280.



[Mike Kittle](#) debuted a new line of ANACS promotional slabs at the February Long Beach Expo. Each holds a different casino token, like this one from the Fremont in Las Vegas. The yellow starburst is a new ANACS label.



New Sample Slab Issuer – American Certified Coins (ACC)

After I bought the previously unknown piece pictured at right on eBay for \$39.50 from the massive and ongoing [rockkos](#) sale, I reached out to Dr. Lane Brunner. As described on pages 175 – 176 of the book, he gave away sample slabs during his University of Texas numismatics classes. In an email, Lane explained,

“When I was on faculty at The University of Texas at Austin, I had the privilege of teaching three different numismatics courses to freshmen students. The courses were:

Numismatics: An Academic Diversion
Introduction to Coin Collecting
Research and Scholarship in Coin Collecting

The courses were taught over about a three-year period near the end of my time at UT Austin before I went to work for the American Numismatic Association.



Prior to the courses starting, I would contact various TPGs and ask if they were willing to send samples I can give to the students. All of the companies responded ... except PCGS. Some sent 'generic' samples, but ICG and ACC both sent 'custom' samples.

These were from 2003, if I recall correctly. He sent me 20 samples like the one you purchased.”

Lane then generously sent me a similar holder with an MS68 2004 Silver Eagle. This was one of a grading set of 6: MS-65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 70 used as illustrations of grades in the classes.

Book News

The Sample Slabs, second edition printed book is now sold out. I do not plan to print more. Fortunately, an unlimited supply of PDFs remains and many people prefer the PDF for easy searching. Buy the PDF download for \$12 at SampleSlabBook.com, or on eBay.

Still no definite plans on a third edition, but I continue to accumulate photos and readers send me several new types every month.

Samples on Instagram, Including NGC Giveaways

Although Pinterest was originally designed for collectors, today Instagram hosts the best and most numismatic content of any social media platform. @pcgscoins and @ngccoins are obvious choices for slab enthusiasts, and you will soon find no end of coin content. NGC is especially worth following, as they occasionally give away slabs on Instagram that are available nowhere else. See [Sample Slab Update #24](#) or the screenshot below for examples.

I post sample and other coin content on Instagram – see [@schwagerdavid](#)



Buying and Selling

Buying

I always buy sample collections or better single slabs for inventory. For my own collection, I look for samples from obscure or unlisted grading services (such as CCCS, Global, or International), gold coin samples, and rarities from all services. davidschwager@hotmail.com

I will pay:

\$175 for a copy of Conder101's 2003 slab book, Third Party Grading / Certification Services & Slab / Certificate Varieties

\$275 for the PCGS "CU Forum Lunch Crew" holder with a New York quarter

Full catalog prices for PCGS Japan 100 yen, PMG Austria 1000 kroner (or other currency samples with oversize notes), and PCGS Canada 10 cent and 25 cent.

Selling

Isaiah Hageman offers a sizable group of 20 lots in [this listing](#). Prices are included and pictures available upon request. He accepts PayPal, Apple Pay Cash, Cash App, and Venmo. Free shipping on all orders. isaiahhh1215@gmail.com Isaiah also posts and sells on Instagram as [@vamsplus](#)

My listings

This time, a few samples, and some intriguing other items for slab collectors.

Free shipping on all orders. To order, email me at davidschwager@hotmail.com, or call or text (714) 658-9516 to verify the holders remain available. I can then send a PayPal invoice, or you can receive a 10% discount for any other payment method (check, Venmo, Facebook Messenger, or nearly any option you have in mind).

1. PCGS-005-3-1. 1910 Liberty nickel. Scarce green label sample. 2018 eBay sales were \$203, \$187, \$150, and \$307. This one \$175.
2. PCGS-025-4-15. 2000-P New Hampshire quarter. "From Bowers And Merena / With Thanks / New Hampshire Sample." \$9
3. PCGS-050-9-3. 1986-D Kennedy half dollar. "PCGS Luncheon / Celebrating 30 Years / January 8, 2016." These were issued with nickels, dimes, quarters, and half dollars. Only two halves sold on eBay since the luncheon three years ago, earning \$110 and \$85. This one \$80

4. PCGS-100-3-2. 1921 Morgan dollar. This is the version with the sky blue label. I since learned that the blue labels are not a separate type, but part of a batch of green labels that changed color over time. The blue labels, however, are scarce. In the last five years, eBay saw 225 circulated 1921 Morgan samples, of which 217 were green and eight were blue. \$70



Additional items of interest to slab collectors

5. 1958 Franklin half in a first generation ANACS slab. The holder has the blue OFFICIAL ANA GRADE underprinting used 1988 and 1989 before the sale to Amos Press. \$39



6. Three silver-dollar sized anodized aluminum Compugrade medals issued at the 1990 ANA. Scarce. \$50 each



7. One Danny Kaye PCGS Regency set remains from the group of 18. \$800

Photos or more details of any items gladly provided on request.

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